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\$2.3 million spent on statewide ballot questions in 2002

Approximately \$2.3 million was spent to promote the passage or defeat of the three questions put before voters on the Nov. 5 statewide ballot, according to figures released today by the Office of Campaign and Political Finance.

The OCPF study showed a total of \$2,099,366 raised and \$2,332,881 spent on the questions, which concerned the abolition of the state income tax, changes in bilingual education and public funding of political campaigns.

Of the total spending, \$2,070,791 was spent by six ballot question committees registered with OCPF and \$262,090 was spent independently by other organizations, such as corporations and associations.

The total spending in 2002 did not exceed the record aggregate of \$16.1 million that was set in 1992, when four questions were on the ballot. In addition, none of the committees set an individual record in 2000, nor did those organized for any single question set a single question record. A comparison of aggregate ballot question spending over the last eight state elections may be found in the figures below.

The side spending the greater amount of money prevailed in only one of the three questions in 2002.

The most financial activity for a single question in 2002 was reported on **Question 2**, which replaced the state's bilingual education law with an "English immersion" program. The question was approved by voters. Totals for the question were \$842,905 raised by the two committees and \$1,091,585 spent by committees and other parties.

Placing second in total spending was activity concerning **Question 3**, which asked voters whether they favored the use of public funds in political campaigns. The advisory question.

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which was non-binding, was defeated. A total of \$720,532 was raised and \$701,189 was spent on the question. Another \$79,872 in in-kind contributions was provided to the committees.

The committee opposing the question, the Coalition Against Taxpayer Funded Campaigns, posted the highest receipt and expenditure totals of any single ballot question committee in 2002. The committee's total expenditures of \$674,552, however, fell far short of the \$8.2 million record for a single committee, set in 1998 on a successful question upholding deregulation of the power industry.

The proposition with the least financial activity in 2002 was **Question 1**, which proposed the elimination of the state income tax. The question was defeated. Total activity for Question 1 was \$535,928 raised and \$540,107 spent.

The sole committee organized for Question 1, the Committee for Small Government, accounted for all but \$4,600 of the spending. That amount was reported in independent expenditures by the Massachusetts Taxpayers Foundation, which opposed the question. There was no ballot question committee organized to oppose the question.

The total committee spending figures do not reflect in-kind contributions, which are things of value other than money such as staff, supplies and other materials that were provided to ballot question committees. Such contributions were reported by the committees that received them and totaled another \$79,872.

The total spending figures also do not include aggregate committee liabilities outstanding as of Nov. 15, which totaled \$131,838. However, liabilities are included in the charts that follow, as are in-kind contributions and independent expenditures.

The figures were based on reports filed by committees and other organizations covering the period through Nov. 15 and are subject to change due to any subsequent corrections, deletions or additions made as the result of any review conducted by OCPF or amendments filed by committees or other organizations. Ballot question committees still in operation after Nov. 15 must file year-end reports with OCPF on or before Jan. 21, 2003, and dissolve after a final vote on the question.

Reports filed by each of the committees, as well as by organizations and corporations making expenditures concerning the questions, are on file at OCPF's office in Room 411 of the McCormack State Office Building, One Ashburton Place, Boston. The ballot question committees also filed their reports online to the Electronic Filing System, a searchable database accessible on OCPF's web site at www.mass.gov/ocpf. A copy of this study is also being posted on the web site.

A breakdown of activity for each question follows.

Campaign Finance Activity for the 2002 Statewide Ballot Questions

Question 1: Elimination of the State Income Tax (Defeated)

Committee	Organized	Receipts	Expenditures	In-Kind Contributions	Liabilities
Support					
Committee for Small Government	7/01	\$535,928.39	\$535,507.41	--	\$2,276.17
Committee total					
Independent expenditures					
Total in favor		\$535,928.39	\$535,507.41	--	\$2,276.17
Oppose					
No committee organized					
Committee total		--	--	--	--
Independent Expenditures			\$ 4,600.00		
Total opposed			\$ 4,600.00		
Question 1 Total					
		\$535,928.39	\$540,107.41	--	\$2,276.17

Question 2: Bilingual Education (Passed)

Committee	Organized	Receipts	Expenditures	In-Kind Contributions	Liabilities
<i>Support</i>					
English for the Children of Massachusetts	9/01	\$457,000.00	\$446,566.47	--	\$115,000.00
<i>Committee total</i>		\$457,000.00	\$446,566.47	--	\$115,000.00
Independent expenditures			--		
<i>Total in favor</i>		\$457,000.00	\$446,566.47	--	\$115,000.00
<i>Oppose</i>					
Committee for Fairness to Children and Teachers	9/01	\$385,904.75	\$387,528.11	--	--
<i>Committee total</i>					
Independent expenditures			\$257,490.00		
<i>Total opposed</i>			\$645,018.11	--	--
<i>Question 2 Total</i>		\$842,904.75	\$1,091,584.58	--	\$115,000.00

Question 3: Public Funding of Political Campaigns (Defeated)

Committee	Organized	Receipts	Expenditures	In-Kind Contributions	Liabilities
Support¹					
Common Cause Campaign for Clean Elections	8/02	\$ 9,282.50	\$ 8,846.60	\$12,286.06	\$12,062.08
Campaign for a Responsive Legislature	5/02	\$17,950.00	\$17,790.00	\$64,136.39	--
Committee total		\$27,232.50	\$26,636.60	\$76,422.45	\$12,062.08
Independent expenditures			--		
Total in favor		\$27,232.50	\$26,636.60	\$76,422.45	\$12,062.08
Oppose					
Coalition Against Taxpayer Funded Political Campaigns	9/02	\$693,300.00	\$674,551.92	\$3,450.00	\$2,500.00
Committee total		\$693,300.00	\$674,551.92	\$3,450.00	\$2,500.00
Independent Expenditures			--		
Total opposed		\$693,300.00	\$674,551.92	\$3,450.00	\$2,500.00
Question 3 Total		\$720,532.50	\$701,188.52	\$79,872.45	\$14,562.08

¹ Includes activity in support of advisory questions in several legislative districts concerning funding of the Clean Elections program.

Total Activity by Question

<i>Question</i>	<i>Receipts</i>	<i>Expenditures</i>	<i>In-Kind Contributions</i>	<i>Ending liabilities</i>
1 - Income tax elimination	\$ 535,928.39	\$ 540,107.41	--	\$ 2,276.17
2 - Bilingual education	\$ 842,904.75	\$1,091,584.58	--	\$115,000.00
3 - Public funding of campaigns	\$ 720,532.50	\$ 701,188.52	\$79,872.45	\$ 14,562.08
TOTAL	\$2,099,365.64	\$2,332,880.51	\$79,872.45	\$131,838.25

All figures are from organization of committee through Nov. 15, 2002.

Statewide Ballot Question Expenditures

1988 - 2002

<i>Year</i>	<i>Number of Questions¹</i>	<i>Number of Committees</i>	<i>Total spent²</i>
1988	4	18	\$13,317,952.42
1990	6	20	\$ 5,661,062.44
1992	4	8	\$16,139,661.07
1994	9	23	\$11,155,835.97
1996	1	3	\$ 1,210,777.52
1998	3	9	\$ 9,999,283.54
2000	8	16	\$15,340,199.45
2002	3	6	\$ 2,332,880.51

1. Total number of questions on statewide ballot. Some questions featured no campaign finance activity.
2. Includes expenditures made by committees and those made independently.

